

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of sealing tissue, comprising:

providing an electrosurgical energy source connected to a surgical instrument used for endoscopic surgical procedures, said surgical instrument including a shaft having a pair of jaw members attached to a distal end thereof;

closing the jaw members around tissue so as to provide a gap between the jaw members in the range of about 0.001 inches to about 0.006 inches and a closure pressure of in the range of about 3 kg/cm² to about 16 kg/cm²; and

applying electrosurgical energy to the jaws so that energy passes between the jaw members and through tissue to effect a tissue seal.

2. A method of sealing tissue, comprising:

providing a surgical instrument for use with endoscopic surgical procedures, said surgical instrument including a shaft having pair of jaws members attached to a distal end thereof, said jaw members adapted to connect to a source of electrosurgical energy;

closing the jaw members around tissue so as to provide a gap between the jaw members in the range of about 0.001 inches to about 0.006 inches and a closure pressure of in the range of about 3 kg/cm² to about 16 kg/cm²; and

applying electrosurgical energy to the jaws so that energy passes between the jaw members and through tissue to effect a tissue seal.